

COUNTRY Eastern Germany REPORT

TOPIC Troops Assembled in the Area of Dessau-Wiesenburg.

EVALUATION 25X1 PLACE OBTAINED 25X1

DATE OF CONTENT 25X1

DATE OBTAINED DATE PREPARED 3 November 1952

REFERENCES 25X1

PAGES 2 ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE) 25X1

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1. On 8 and 9 October 1952, the number of troops concentrated in the Wiesenburg (N 53/4 20)-Medewitz-Nedlitz (N 53/E 09) area steadily increased. A very large number of motor vehicles of all types carrying ammunition and troops with full pack were assembled at the detraining stations of Wiesenburg and Medewitz. At 11:30 a.m. on 8 October, a tank unit equipped with 6 T-34-85 tanks and several unnumbered trucks left the Wiesenburg railroad station toward Nedlitz, and about 100 trucks 5 x 45-m. AT guns, 5 x 120-mm mortars and about 400 soldiers were simultaneously unloaded. (1) At 12:45 p.m., a train carrying about 35 trucks, a radio truck, 1 crane mounted on a caterpillar tractor, 10 large pontoons, 4 small pontoons, 3 motorboats and vehicles passed through the railroad station, coming from the direction of Helzig and proceeding in the direction of Dessau. At 5 p.m., 11 T-34/85 tanks, about 15 trucks, 1 radio truck, 2 tank trucks and sedan were unloaded at the railroad station. (2) A train carrying 20 rocket launchers and 8 unnumbered trucks passed through the railroad station, proceeding toward Dessau at the same time. At 6 p.m., the train was followed by another train in the same direction carrying 6 two-load guns with three-axle gun barrel trailers, a track-laying gun carriage, 12 large caterpillar tractors, 10 small caterpillar tractors and about 6 unnumbered trucks. (3) On 9 October, there were no unloading operations. At 2:30 a.m., about 300 trucks 122-mm field howitzers, about 5 radio trucks, 7 field kitchens and about 2,500 soldiers equipped with guns and motor vehicles with camouflage nets passed through Wiesenburg, coming from the direction of Ziesar. A twin-engine aircraft circled over the head of the column. (4) Trucks mounting AA machine guns and trucks stood at the road intersections. The empty trains which had been at the railroad station left in the direction of Potsdam.

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2. On 9 and 10 October, rocket launchers were emplaced just west of the railroad line near Juetrichau (N 52/E 07). Truck [] and BA armored scout car No 137 stood nearby. Four additional rocket launchers were emplaced east of Rodleben. A tent camp housing about 1,000 soldiers as well as 40 trucks and about 10 unnumbered armored personnel carriers were about 5 km east of Rossiau, south of the railroad line. [] [] []

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3. At noon on 9 October, about 60 flatcars carrying 12 T-34 tanks and 40 trucks with pontoons and bridge-building equipment, [] were unloaded at the Dessau (N 52/E 17) railroad station. Six SU-76 gun carriages, 12 82 guns with T-34 chassis and 10 trucks, [] were unloaded at 1:30 p.m. (1) []

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4. Since 5 October, source had observed that troops were assembled in the area south of Dessau in the woods on either side of the autobahn as well as west of Dessau in the area of Mosigkau. There were numerous artillery units and ammunition columns. Sixteen heavy field guns of about 152-mm caliber were seen emplaced just northwest of Klein Kuehnau. The guns pointed toward the south. At 7 a.m. on 9 October, an ammunition column consisting of 60 trucks [] and radio truck [] left Rossiau and went toward Aken. (6)

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- (1) Comments. [] records of the transport control komendatura in Erfurt indicated that about 50 trains carrying units of the Eighth Sds Army went from the Ohrdruf troop training grounds to the area of Wiesenburg and, from Kindel and Lossa, to the area south of Dessau during the period from 5 to 8 October.
- (2) The train observed en route from the direction of Pelzig in the direction of Dessau at 12:45 p.m. on 8 October probably carried the 880th Engr Bn of the XXVIII Sds Itz Rifle Corps, coming from Templin. The same train was observed passing through the Wildpark railroad station at 6:30 a.m. []
- (3) The train observed at 6 p.m. on 8 October carried a battalion of the 124th Hw How Arty Brig (US) of the 6th Arty Div [] being entrained with 24 guns in Brandenburg. []
- (4) The unit observed marching by road at 9:30 a.m. on 9 October probably came from Altengrabow and was the 18th HowArty Brig (US) of the 6th Arty Div.
- (5) The troops seen on either side of the Elbe River near Rossiau probably belonged to the units which arrived in the area of Wiesenburg during the preceding days. The motor vehicle numbers observed indicate that GDFG units are involved.
- (6) Another group apparently assembled simultaneously south of the Elbe River section near Dessau-Aken. The unloading areas tend to indicate that the XXVIII Sds Itz Rifle Corps assembled north of the Elbe River while the XXIX Sds Itz Rifle Corps concentrated south of the Elbe River. []

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